SAMPLE SLAB UPDATE

#43 – AUGUST 2025

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SAMPLE SLAB COLLECTORS.

The Sample Slab Book, Volume 3 is Here

The long-awaited third edition of the Sample Slabs book is finally here, complete, and ready to order. Covering NGC and PCGS, Volume 1 has more pages, more types, and more photos than the entire 2016 second edition. Nearly 1,000 sample and related slabs are included in this hefty 692-page volume. Volume 2, including 40 more grading services, is in progress. Both the physical print on demand and electronic PDF versions are in color and include extensive indices.

If you order a print on demand for $45 plus shipping, a physical copy will be printed and mailed to you. If you order a PDF for $15, you will receive a download link in one to two days. The PDF license includes the right to make copies for multiple devices.

Click your favorite cover (choice of three!) to order a printed copy.

SAMPLE SLABS
Including Sample, Promotional, Club, Show, Luncheon, Novelty, and Young Numismatist Coin Holders
THIRD EDITION
Volume 1 - NCS, NGC, and PCGS
DAVID SCHWAGER
BURTON STRAUSS
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Click here to order a PDF download.

See https://sampleslabs.info/ordering2025.html for even more info on ordering, or use the links above to skip to the good part.

Thank you to everyone who asked when the book would be done and waited for an answer. And even greater thanks to co-author Burton Strauss, who did the majority of the work on the new edition.

Since we launched August 21, orders have been arriving steadily. Order yours now.

Sample Slabs at the Oklahoma City ANA

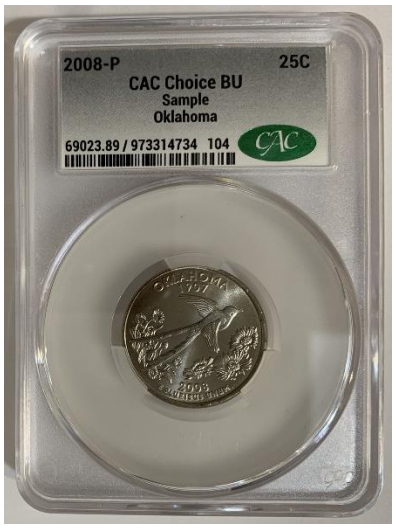
ANA members initially grumbled about a smaller city as the selection for the world's largest coin show. During the show, however, attendees were pleased with the location. Dealers don't hold back from complaining, but I heard no complaints.

There were also no complaints about the new samples that appeared at the convention. NGC and PMG held a luncheon for customers and gave a souvenir holder with an Eisenhower dollar. Also, at the luncheon, they gave three samples with proof Silver Eagles by random drawing.

CACG gave each dealer a top-quality plastic slab box (the best-made slab box I have ever seen) and a sample with an Oklahoma quarter.

PCGS continued their luncheon series with a holder for their cocktail reception. The sample holds a Shield cent and was accompanied by a PCGS-branded notebook, pocket fan, and lens cloth.

The PCGS grading contest included a holder with an Ida Wells American Women quarter for all contestants. If you won the contest and received a different sample, please send me a photo.



Slab Collector Meeting #9

Continuing a series that started in 2016, Slab Collector Meeting #9 was held Thursday, August 21 at the Oklahoma City ANA Convention. The highlight was Burton announcing the release of the third edition book. He is seen in the photo on the next page displaying pre-production copies of the book and answering questions. The meeting also featured show and tell, socializing, and trading.

I am thinking of establishing an official ANA club called the Slab Collector Society or similar. If I file paperwork and pay a fee, the ANA will give us a meeting room at their shows and put our event in the program. This would make publicity easier and guarantee a meeting space.

New Sample Issuer – Provident Numismatic Certification (PNC)

Ken Barr Numismatics sold a sample from a new issuer, Provident Numismatic Certification or PNC, on eBay July 28. According to the seller, 60 were made and given to dealers and volunteers at the Reno Coin Show held July 18 and 19.

A banner at the top of the PNC website, pncgrading.com, states "PNC is not accepting

submissions at this time. Due to a CEASE and DESIST demand from NGC over a former non-compete agreement, we are currently NOT accepting submissions until further notice. Thank you for your support." The site describes their services, including grading, special labels using customer designs, and conservation. About half of the coins illustrated on the site are ancient. PNC is based in Venice, Florida.

Lowest known PCGS serial crushes sales records

A PCGS type 1.0 holder with serial 10800017 sold on Great Collections August 10 for $119,062, including buyer's premium. Containing an 1881-S Morgan dollar graded MS63 with a CAC green sticker, this is the lowest known PCGS serial number, according to the PCGS type 1.0 and 1.1 census at oldslabholders.com. PCGS serials started at about 10800001 (there is some question about the exact starting number), which makes this coin about the 17th piece ever graded by PCGS.

The census has 46 PCGS type 1.0 coins, all of which have serials starting with 1080. As described by the PCGS Museum of Coin Holders, PCGS made this type for their first few days of operation in February 1986.

Two Great Collections sales, one a low serial production holder and one a test piece with special provenance, could be considered the previous record prices.

Serial 10800094, also one of PCGS' first 100 encapsulations, sold on Great Collections for $45,374 a few months earlier on May 25 of this year. That slab held a 1904 double eagle graded MS63 with a CAC gold sticker. Number 0094 is the second lowest to sell publicly.

The first coin encapsulated by PCGS, a test holder with a blank label and 1982-D quarter sold on Great Collections for $46,125 on July 30, 2023. PCGS co-founder John Dannreuther donated the holder to be auctioned to benefit Witter Coin University.

As I have said before, collectible slabs are now mainstream. With a $100,000+ auction result, it is impossible to deny that special coin holders are an important and respectable part of numismatics.

Slab Man Apparel

In the last issue, we saw the Slab Man logos my friend Keith Dewald made. Stickers came first. With custom manufacturing easier than ever, I had a Slab Man button up shirt made. Some of us saw it debut at the ANA convention a few days ago. More is coming soon.

Nothing says you can't have your own logo and merch. Have a logo made for yourself, your house, your pet, your car – whatever you want. And it's not that hard to have custom items made. Give it a shot.

Buying and Selling

Buying (with prices I will pay)

- Samples from obscure or unlisted grading services, such as AHCGS, CCCS, TCTS, or the new PNC. $150 - $250 for these four services, depending on coin enclosed and condition.
- Gold coin samples. Price depends on coin enclosed, but there will be a premium over the coin value.
- ICG casino chip sample. $50 and up.
- PCGS 4th generation blue label sample with a Canada 25 cent and grade MS00. $450
- Accugrade salesman's sample, probably holding a Canada 10 cent. $350

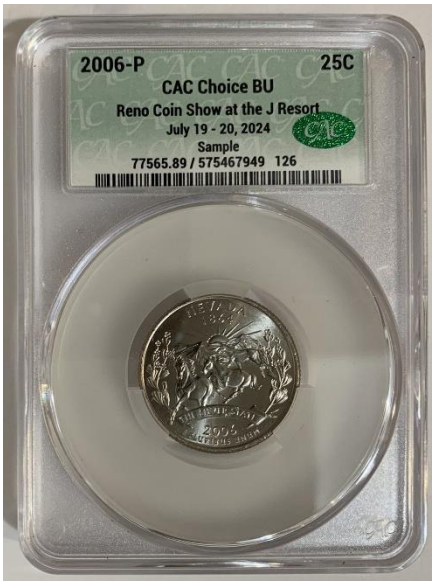
- NGC Ocho (type 8.0) holders with W or T grades or Ochos of any grade if the holder has a type of coin I don't yet own. Price depends on coin enclosed, but I will pay a premium.

Contact me at davidschwager@hotmail.com or Instagram @schwagerdavid

Selling

Two pieces available for sale this time, both scarce CACG samples. All payment methods accepted (feeless preferred). Shipping $5, free with $50 order. To order, email davidschwager@hotmail.com, or Instagram message @schwagerdavid.

1. CACG sample from the 2023 CSNA & NCNA Educational Forum. CSNA is the California State Numismatic Association and NCNA is the Northern California Numismatic Association. Only a few dozen people usually attend this education-only event, and it has seen just one eBay appearance. A difficult piece for the CACG collector. $150



2. CACG sample from the 2024 Reno Coin Show. Another hard-to-find CACG sample, with only two appearing on eBay so far in the year since the show. $150

Also, would anyone be interested in Slab Man stickers or mugs? Are we not all Slab Men?

Sample Slab Update #43 – August 2025 (sent 8/29/25). Published about every two months by David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See the Newman Numismatic Portal for past issues. The best way to reach me and know what I am doing is Instagram @schwagerdavid. I also respond to Facebook messages.